AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-27. (Cancelled)

28. (New) A surgical retractor comprising:

two arms, each arm comprising a generally polygonal cross-section and an outer surface including a plurality of notches, each notch located at a discrete position around the perimeter of the arm and between a first end of the arm and a second end of the arm;

each arm being pivotally connected to the other arm at the first end such that the arms can be pivoted between a closed position in which the arms are substantially parallel to one another and an open position in which the arms have a substantially V-shaped configuration;

a lock for retaining the arms in the open position;

a plurality of retractor blades, at least one retractor blade carried by each arm, each blade comprising a mounting portion cooperable with the arm for locating the retractor blade at any of the plurality of locations around the perimeter of the arm and between the first end and the second end of the arm, the mounting portion comprising an inner surface extending around more than half of the perimeter of the arm;

wherein when the retractor blade is in an unlocked position the inner surface is substantially parallel to the surface of the arm and the retractor blade is

moveable between the first end and second end of the arm; and

wherein in a locked position the inner surface is askew to the surface of the arm and at least one edge of the mounting portion is engaged with at least one notch and the retractor blade is not movable between the first end and second end of the arm.

29. (New) A retractor according to claim 28, wherein at least some of the notches intersect at least some of the edges of the outer surface of the arm that are formed at an intersection of two of the sides of the outer surface.

30. (New) A retractor according to claim 29, wherein the inner surface of the mounting portion comprises a plurality of longitudinal grooves distributed around the inner surface that are cooperable with the plurality of notches to enable the mounting portion to be retained on the arm in a selected one of a plurality of positions around the perimeter of the arm when in the locked position.

31. (New) A retractor according to claim 28 wherein the mounting portions of some of the plurality of retractor blades freely rotate about the longitudinal axis of the arm and the mounting portions of others of the plurality of retractor blades are configured to enable the mounting portion to be retained on the arm in a selected one of a plurality of angular positions relative to the longitudinal axis of the arm.

32. (New) A retractor according to claim 31, wherein the arm comprises a polygonal cross-section having at least five sides.

33. (New) A retractor according to claim 32, wherein at least some of the notches intersect at least some of the edges at the intersections of the faces of the arm.

34. (New) A retractor according to claim 31, wherein the arm comprises a hexagonal cross-section.

35. (New) A retractor according to claim 34, wherein at least some of the notches are positioned to intersect at least some of the edges of the hexagonal cross-section.

36. (New) A retractor according to claim 31, wherein each blade with its mounting portion is of one-piece construction.

37. (New) A surgical retractor comprising:

two arms, each arm extending from a first end to a second end along a first longitudinal axis and being pivotally connected to the other arm at the first end such that the arms can be pivoted between a closed position in which the arms are substantially parallel to one another and an open position in which the arms have a substantially V-shaped configuration;

a lock for retaining the arms in the open position;

each arm further comprising an outer surface comprising six faces and a plurality of edges, each edge formed at an intersection of two adjacent faces;

the outer surface further comprising a plurality of discrete notches, each notch being formed transversely across one of the plurality of edges of the outer surface;

a plurality of retractor blades, at least one retractor blade carried by each arm, each blade comprising a mounting portion extending along a second longitudinal axis from a first edge to a second edge and being cooperable with the arm for locating the retractor blade at any of a plurality of locations on the outer surface of the arm, the mounting portion comprising an inner surface extending around at least three faces of the outer surface of the arm;

wherein when the retractor blade is in an unlocked position the second longitudinal axis is substantially parallel to the first longitudinal axis and the retractor blade is moveable between the first end and second end of the arm; and

wherein in a locked position the second longitudinal axis is not substantially parallel to the first longitudinal axis and at least one edge of the mounting portion is engaged with at least one notch and the retractor blade is not movable between the first end and second end of the arm.

38. (New) A retractor according to claim 37 wherein the mounting portions of some of the plurality of retractor blades freely rotate about the longitudinal axis of the arm and the mounting portions of others of the plurality of retractor blades are configured to enable the mounting portion to be retained on the arm in a selected one of a plurality of angular positions relative to the longitudinal axis of the arm.

39. (New) A retractor according to claim 37, wherein the inner surface of the mounting portion comprises a plurality of longitudinal grooves distributed around the inner surface that are cooperable with the plurality of notches to enable the mounting portion to be retained on the arm in a selected one of a plurality of positions on the outer surface of the arm when in the locked position.

40. (New) A retractor according to claim 37, wherein the arm comprises a hexagonal cross-section.

41. (New) A retractor according to claim 37, wherein each blade with its mounting portion is of one-piece construction.

42. (New) A surgical retractor comprising:

two arms, each arm extending from a first end to a second end along a first longitudinal axis and being pivotally connected to the other arm at the first end such that the arms can be pivoted between a closed position in which the arms are substantially parallel to one another and an open position in which the arms have a substantially V-shaped configuration;

a lock for retaining the arms in the open position;

each arm further comprising an outer surface comprising at least five faces and at least five edges and a plurality of discrete notches, each notch being formed transversely across one of the plurality of edges of the outer surface such that at

least two of the plurality of notches are formed in at least one of the plurality of edges;

a plurality of retractor blades, at least one retractor blade carried by each arm, each blade comprising a mounting portion extending along a second longitudinal axis from a first edge to a second edge and being cooperable with the arm for locating the retractor blade at any of a plurality of locations on the outer surface of the arm, the mounting portion comprising an inner surface extending around at least three faces of the outer surface of the arm;

wherein when the retractor blade is in an unlocked position the second longitudinal axis is substantially parallel to the first longitudinal axis and the retractor blade is moveable between the first end and second end of the arm; and

wherein in a locked position the second longitudinal axis is not substantially parallel to the first longitudinal axis and at least one edge of the mounting portion is engaged with at least one notch and the retractor blade is not movable between the first end and second end of the arm.

43. (New) A retractor according to claim 42 wherein the mounting portions of some of the plurality of retractor blades freely rotate about the longitudinal axis of the arm and the mounting portions of others of the plurality of retractor blades are configured to enable the mounting portion to be retained on the arm in a selected one of a plurality of angular positions relative to the longitudinal axis of the arm.

44. (New) A retractor according to claim 42, wherein the inner surface of the mounting portion comprises a plurality of longitudinal grooves distributed around the

inner surface that are cooperable with the plurality of notches to enable the mounting portion to be retained on the arm in a selected one of a plurality of positions on the outer surface of the arm when in the locked position.

45. (New) A retractor according to claim 42, wherein the arm comprises a hexagonal cross-section.

46. (New) A retractor according to claim 42, wherein each blade with its mounting portion is of one-piece construction.